77. The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

78. The method of claim 76 wherein protecting the sorbitol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sorbitol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

79. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises sorbitol; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sorbitol effective to enhance milk component production by the ruminant.

80. The method of claim 79 wherein supplying the sorbitol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises:

protecting the sorbitol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant; and

orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

81. The method of claim 79 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

82. The method of claim 80 wherein protecting the sorbitol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sorbitol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

83. A method of enhancing milk component production in a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol;

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprising:

protecting the sugar alcohol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant; and

orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

84. The method of claim 83 wherein protecting the sugar alcohol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

85. The method of claim 83, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

86. The method of claim 83, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

87. The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production includes enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

88. The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

89. The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

90. The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

91. The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

92. The method of claim 83 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol, or any combination of these.

93. The method of claim 83 wherein the sugar alcohol comprises glycerol.

94. The method of claim 83 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol.

95. A method of enhancing milk component production in a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol;

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprising:

protecting the sugar alcohol from substantial alteration in the rumen of the ruminant; and

orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

96. The method of claim 95, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from any alteration in the rumen of the ruminant.

97. The method of claim 95, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

98. The method of claim 95, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

99. The method of claim 95 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

100. The method of claim 95 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

101. The method of claim 95 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

102. The method of claim 95 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

103. The method of claim 95 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

104. The method of claim 95 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol, or any combination of these.

105. The method of claim 95 wherein the sugar alcohol comprises sorbitol.

106. The method of claim 95 wherein the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

107. The method of claim 95 wherein the sugar alcohol comprises glycerol.

108. The method of claim 95 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol.

109. A method of enhancing milk component production in a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol ruminally-protected; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant.

110. The method of claim 109 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol, or any combination of these.

111. The method of claim 109 wherein the sugar alcohol comprises sorbitol.

112. The method of claim 109 wherein the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

113. The method of claim 109 wherein the sugar alcohol comprises glycerol.

114. The method of claim 109 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol.

115. A method of enhancing milk component production in a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol;

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprising:

protecting the sugar alcohol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant, wherein protecting the sugar alcohol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant; and

orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

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116. The method of claim 115, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

117. The method of claim 115, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent

of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

118. The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

119. The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

120. The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

121. The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

122. The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

123. The method of claim 115 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol, or any combination of these.

124. The method of claim 115 wherein the sugar alcohol comprises sorbitol.

125. The method of claim 115 wherein the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

126. The method of claim 115 wherein the sugar alcohol comprises glycerol.

127. The method of claim 115 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol.

128. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance milk component production by the ruminant, supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprising:
protecting the sugar alcohol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant; and
orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

129. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance milk component production by the ruminant.

130. The method of claim 129 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

131. The method of claim 129 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

132. The method of claim 129 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

133. The method of claim 129 wherein enhanced milk component production comprises enhanced weight percent true protein, enhanced weight percent fat, enhanced weight percent lactose, enhanced weight percent total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

134. The method of claim 129 wherein enhanced milk component production comprises enhanced weight percent true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

135. The method of claim 129 wherein enhanced milk component production comprises enhanced weight percent fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

136. The method of claim 129 wherein enhanced milk component production comprises enhanced weight percent lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

137. The method of claim 129 wherein enhanced milk component production comprises enhanced weight percent total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

138. The method of claim 129 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol, or any combination of these.

139. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol is allitol, altritol, dulcitol, erythritol; galaxitol, glucitol, iditol, inositol, isomalt, lactitol, maltitol, mannitol, perseitol, rhamnitol, threitol, sorbitol, glycerol, or any of these in any combination; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

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140. The method of claim 139 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol, or any combination of these.

141. The method of claim 139 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol, sorbitol, or any combination of these.

142. The method of claim 139 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that

allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

143. The method of claim 139 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

144. The method of claim 139 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

145. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

146. The method of claim 145 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further

comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

147. The method of claim 145 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

148. The method of claim 145 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

149. The method of claim 145 wherein the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

150. The method of claim 149 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

151. The method of claim 149 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

152. The method of claim 149 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

153. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

154. The method of claim 153 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

155. The method of claim 153 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

156. The method of claim 153 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

157. The method of claim 153 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol.

158. The method of claim 157 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

159. The method of claim 157 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant

to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

160. The method of claim 157 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

161. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol being allitol, altritol, dulcitol, erythritol; galaxitol, glucitol, iditol, inositol, isomalt, lactitol, maltitol, mannitol, perseitol, rhamnitol, threitol, sorbitol, glycerol, or any of these in any combination; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

A1 cont'd

162. The method of claim 161 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol, or any combination of these.

163. The method of claim 161 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol, sorbitol, or any combination of these.

164. The method of claim 161 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

165. The method of claim 161 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

166. The method of claim 161 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

167. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

168. The method of claim 167 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

169. The method of claim 167 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

170. The method of claim 167 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

171. The method of claim 167 wherein the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

172. The method of claim 171 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant

to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

173. The method of claim 171 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

174. The method of claim 171 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

175. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

176. The method of claim 175 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that

allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

177. The method of claim 175 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

178. The method of claim 175 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

179. The method of claim 175 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol.

180. The method of claim 179 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

181. The method of claim 179 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

182. The method of claim 179 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

A1 cont'd

183. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol being allitol, altritol, dulcitol, erythritol; galaxitol, glucitol, iditol, inositol, isomalt, lactitol, maltitol, mannitol, perseitol, rhamnitol, threitol, sorbitol, glycerol, or any of these in any combination; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

184. The method of claim 183 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol, or any combination of these.

185. The method of claim 183 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol, sorbitol, or any combination of these.

186. The method of claim 183 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

187. The method of claim 183 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

188. The method of claim 183 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

189. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

190. The method of claim 189 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

191. The method of claim 189 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

192. The method of claim 189 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

193. The method of claim 189 wherein the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

194. The method of claim 193 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

195. The method of claim 193 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

196. The method of claim 193 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

197. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

198. The method of claim 197 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

199. The method of claim 197 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

200. The method of claim 197 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

201. The method of claim 197 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol.

202. The method of claim 201 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant

to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

203. The method of claim 201 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

204. The method of claim 201 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

205. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol being allitol, altritol, dulcitol, erythritol; galaxitol, glucitol, iditol, inositol, isomalt, lactitol, maltitol, mannitol, perseitol, rhamnitol, threitol, sorbitol, glycerol, or any of these in any combination; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

206. The method of claim 205 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol, or any combination of these.

207. The method of claim 205 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol, sorbitol, or any combination of these.

208. The method of claim 205 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

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209. The method of claim 205 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

210. The method of claim 205 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

211. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

212. The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

213. The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

214. The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

215. The method of claim 211 wherein the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

216. The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

217. The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

218. The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

219. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

220. The method of claim 219 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

221. The method of claim 219, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

222. The method of claim 219 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

223. The method of claim 219 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol.

224. The method of claim 223 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further

comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

225. The method of claim 223 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

226. The method of claim 223 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

227. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol being allitol, altritol, dulcitol, erythritol; galaxitol, glucitol, iditol, inositol, isomalt, lactitol, maltitol, mannitol, perseitol, rhamnitol, threitol, sorbitol, glycerol, or any of these in any combination; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein, lactose, fat, total solids, or any combination of any of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

228. The method of claim 227 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol, or any combination of these.

229. The method of claim 227 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol, sorbitol, or any combination of these.

230. The method of claim 227 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

231. The method of claim 227 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

232. The method of claim 227 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further

comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

233. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein, lactose, fat, total solids, or any combination of any of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

234. The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

235. The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

236. The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

237. The method of claim 233 wherein the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

238. The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

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239. The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

240. The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant

to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

241. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein, lactose, fat, total solids, or any combination of any of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

242. The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

243. The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

244. The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that

allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

245. The method of claim 241 wherein the sugar alcohol is glycerol.

246. The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

247. The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

248. The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

249. The method of claim 76, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

250. The method of claim 76, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

251. The method of claim 75 wherein the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

252. The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

253. The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

254. The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

255. The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

256. The method of claim 80, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

257. The method of claim 80, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

258. The method of claim 79 wherein the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

259. The method of claim 79 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

260. The method of claim 79 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

261. The method of claim 79 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

262. The method of claim 79 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed on February 20, 2003. In that Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 75-82, rejected claims 1-3, 8-11, 13, 14 and 28-59 and objected to claims 4, 33, 38-43, 55, 57, 58 and 60-74.